

Application Number 10/728,327
Amendment dated 2 November 2006
Reply to Office Action of 12 May 2006

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (original): A portable barrier panel for providing privacy to a screened area, the portable barrier panel comprising:

a plurality of vertical support tubes having an elongate axis, a lower portion and an upper portion opposite the lower portion;

a plurality of elongate legs having an adjustable length, the elongate legs attached to the lower portion of the vertical support tubes, such that an angle α exists between the elongate leg and the vertical support tube axis, wherein the angle α is adjustable;

a top elbow assembly mounted on the upper portion of the vertical support tubes, the top elbow assembly having a side tube holder positioned in a substantially perpendicular configuration with respect to the vertical support tube axis, wherein the side tube holder can be rotated around the vertical support tube axis;

an elongate horizontal framing member having first and second ends, wherein the first and second ends are supported by side tube holders that form a part of top elbow assemblies that are mounted to two different vertical support tubes; and

an opaque curtain mounted to the horizontal framing member and at least one of the vertical support tubes.

Claim 2 (original): The portable barrier panel of claim 1, wherein three of the elongate legs are attached to one of the vertical support tubes.

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Claim 3 (original): The portable barrier panel of claim 1, wherein the vertical support tubes, the elongate legs, and the elongate horizontal framing member comprise powder-coated aluminum tubing.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (original): The portable barrier panel of claim 1, further comprising a rubber cap positioned on at least one of the elongate legs opposite the vertical support tube.

Claim 6 (original): The portable barrier panel of claim 1, wherein the angle α is capable of being adjusted to an angle of approximately 0° when the portable barrier panel is disassembled.

Claim 7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (original): The portable barrier panel of claim 1, wherein the opaque curtain includes a plurality of wind vents configured to allow air to pass through the opaque curtain.

Claim 9 (original): The portable barrier panel of claim 1, wherein the opaque curtain comprises a nylon sheet.

Claim 10 (original): The portable barrier panel of claim 1, wherein the opaque curtain includes a substantially transparent window.

Claim 11 (original): An apparatus comprising:

a frame that includes n horizontal framing members having first and second ends, and $n+1$ vertical support posts, wherein the vertical support posts

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are positioned to support the ends of the horizontal framing members, and wherein n is an integer greater than or equal to one;

a leg assembly mounted to and supporting each of the $n+1$ vertical support posts, the leg assembly having a plurality of elongate legs with an adjustable length, the elongate legs attached to the vertical support post such than an angle α exists between the elongate leg and the vertical support post, wherein the angle α is adjustable; and

an opaque curtain supported by the frame.

Claim 12 (original): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein $n=3$.

Claim 13 (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising $n+1$ top elbow assemblies mounted on the vertical support posts, the top elbow assemblies having a side tube holder configured to support the end of one of the a horizontal framing members.

Claim 14 (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising $n+1$ top elbow assemblies mounted on the vertical support posts, the top elbow assemblies having a side tube holder configured to support the end of one of the a horizontal framing members, wherein the side tube holder and the horizontal framing member mounted therein can be rotated around the vertical support post.

Claim 15 (cancelled).

Claim 16 (original): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the vertical support posts, the elongate legs, and the horizontal framing members comprise powder-coated aluminum.

Claim 17 (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a rubber cap positioned on at least one of the elongate legs opposite the vertical support post.

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Claim 18 (original): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the angle α is capable of being adjusted to an angle of approximately 0°.

Claim 19 (cancelled).

Claim 20 (original): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the opaque curtain includes a plurality of wind vents configured to allow air to pass through the opaque curtain.

Claim 21 (original): A kit comprising:

a plurality of vertical support tubes having a lower portion and an upper portion, wherein a plurality of elongate legs are attached to the lower portion of the vertical support tubes at an adjustable angle, the elongate legs having an adjustable length;

a plurality of horizontal framing members configured to be mounted to the upper portion of the vertical support tubes,

a plurality of opaque curtains configured to be at least partially supported by the horizontal framing members, such that the opaque curtains form a plurality of barrier panels that are rotatable with respect to each other;

an instruction sheet containing instructions for assembling the barrier panels; and

a storage bag capable of holding the vertical support tubes, the horizontal framing members, and the instruction sheet.

Claim 22 (original): The kit of claim 21, wherein the storage bag has a length that is less than six feet.

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Claim 23 (original): The kit of claim 21, wherein the storage bag has a weight that is less than fifty pounds when the vertical support tubes, the horizontal framing members, and the instruction sheet are placed therein.

Claim 24 (original): The kit of claim 21, further comprising a distance measurement device having a length approximately equal to a length of the horizontal framing members.

Claim 25 (original): The kit of claim 21, further comprising a plurality of top elbow assemblies configured to allow the horizontal framing members to be mounted to the vertical support tubes, such that the horizontal framing members can be rotated around the vertical support tubes.

Claim 26 (original): A portable barrier system for providing an enclosed and covered area, the system comprising:

a plurality of enclosure side panels;

a plurality of vertical support posts that have a lower portion and an upper portion opposite the lower portion;

a plurality of elongate legs having an adjustable length, the elongate legs attached to the lower portion of the vertical support posts, such that an angle α exists between the elongate leg and the vertical support post, wherein the angle α is adjustable;

a top elbow assembly mounted on the upper support portion of the vertical support posts, the top elbow assembly having a side tube holder positioned in a substantially perpendicular configuration with respect to the vertical support post, and an inclined roof support holder positioned in an inclined orientation with respect to the side tube holder;

a roof support member that is supported by two inclined roof support holders, the roof support member forming a roof apex at an elevation above an elevation of the upper portion of the vertical support posts; and

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a flexible roofing material overlaying the roof support member and forming an enclosed and covered area within the enclosure side panels.

Claim 27 (original): The portable barrier system of claim 26, further comprising at least three enclosure side panels, four vertical support posts, and two roof support members.

Claim 28 (original): The portable barrier system of claim 26, further comprising two roof support members that are orthogonal to each other.

Claim 29 (original): The portable barrier system of claim 26, further comprising two roof support members that are orthogonal to each other, and that intersect at the roof apex.

Claim 30 (original): The portable barrier system of claim 26, wherein the enclosure side panels comprise a substantially transparent flexible window.

Claim 31 (original): The portable barrier system of claim 26, wherein the roof support member comprises two lower roof support bars and two upper roof support bars, wherein each of the lower roof support bars are connected to one of the inclined roof support holders, and wherein the upper roof support bars are interconnected with a roof center support at the roof apex.

Claim 32 (cancelled).